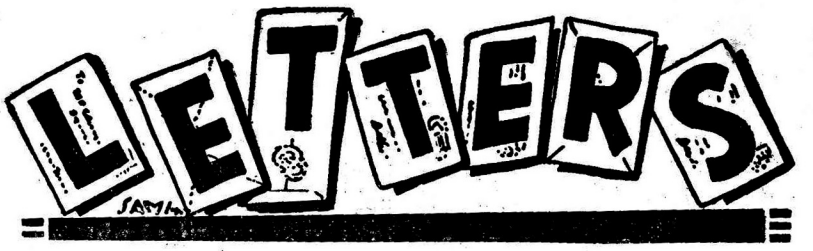

Call To Womanhood

Sir—I have watched with interest the reactions to my call to womanhood. The response evoked is encouraging. THE DAWN has provided an excellent forum for political discussions throughout Muslim India. May THE DAWN really help the new era to dawn without delay.

I agree with my sister, S. Begum, that the Muslim womanhood should occupy a frontal position in the body politic of Muslim India —not by mere courtesy or chivalrous sentiments of our brothers but by dint of solid achievements. Gifts are hardly graceful. It is time the Muslim women should realize their position and responsibilities, and try to fulfil their rightful role with credit.

Education is the prerequisite for effective awakening. It is encouraging that the Muslim girls are now taking to education in larger numbers than in the past. But the number of girls under tuition is still a mere drop in the ocean. The position has to improve.

The command of our Prophet (peace be on him) is, as usual clear on the point —*Tallab-al ilme farizatun ala kulle Muslemino wal Muslimat.* (Acquisition of knowledge is the bounden duty of *every* Muslim male and *every* Muslim female). The saying clearly enunciates the salutory principle of compulsory education for children of both sexes. The principle enunciated by the Prophet of Islam fourteen hundred, years ago has been adopted by the Christian countries but still stands unhonoured and unimplemented in Muslim countries. Nothing could be a greater tragedy and a matter of greater shame for the Muslims.

We must now try to rectify past mistakes. Things are changing slowly but steadily. The enlightened few amongst the Muslim womanhood should take the lead.

Politics undoubtedly holds the field. The Muslim womanhood should veer round the Muslim League and try to help it and utilize it to serve the cause of womanhood in all sphere of life. We must add strength to the elbows of our leaders, as suggested by S. Begum.

The Muslim women could also set better examples by their unshaken devotion and steadfast loyalty, which are their innate virtues. The waverers and deserters should be put to shame. The Muslim womanhood of Bengal should come forward to be members of the Muslim League so that the deserters may feel the ignomy of their perfidious conduct the more.

Yours etc.,
Muslim Womanhood
Calcutta. of Bengal.

Modern Education and Muslim Women

Sir - I have read with interest the views of my venerable sister S. Begum about the apathy of Muslims in the matter of education of Muslim women. I have no desire to enter into a discussion with her or any other sister who does not feel inclined to agree with my humble opinion. I, however, venture to draw attention to the opinion of Miss L. R. Laksmi of the R. B. Sohan Lal College, Lahore, which she expressed during a debate in the Y. W. C.A. Hall as recently as November last on the subject whether "an educated girl is a misfit in society." She said that "the modern educated girl was neglecting the sacred duties entrusted to her by nature and instead of being a devoted mother, an affectionate sister, an obedient daughter and a loving wife, she had become a reluctant mother, an indifferent sister, a self-willed daughter and a quarrelsome wife." She added that "from financial, domestic and other points of view" the modern educated girl "was hardly to be considered other than a misfit in the society." It may be remembered that Miss Laksmi won the first prize which fact speaks for itself.

In view of the opinion of one of the modern educated girl herself, which was endorsed by the majority of the audience present there, I venture, to differ from the views of S. Begum that "the present system of education may be defective, but let us have it and try to get better education in due course. It is no use crying for the moon." Because by the time arrangements are made to modify the present system of education in order to bring it into line with the Islamic point of view, the harm done would have gone beyond the stage of rectification. The Muslim world wants mothers to beget and bring up Khalids and Tariqs.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest to my sister to have Islamic education first and then obtain modern education in their own homes without attending any regular schools which produce only "modern girls" who are a misfit especially in the Muslim society. Only a few who want to enter any profession, such as medical, may have higher education. Apparently the modern education is more attractive and appealing to those who are in their teens; but adolescence is a stage in which one has not prudence enough to think of one's future, and it is at this time that children need advice and guidance of sincere and experienced well-wishers which a modern girl has no desire to take. Neglect on her part to look to parents and brothers for guidance sometimes brings about disastrous consequences. I venture to tender my humble advice as a Muslim brother and hope that my Muslim sister will kindly take it in the same spirit.

Yours etc.,
Lahore. Fazlur Rahman.

N. A. C. Delhi-Shahdara

Sir—It will be of interest to the authorities and the public to know the comparative figures of Hindus and Muslims both in the establishment as well as the Members of the Notified Area Committee, Delhi-Shahdara :—

Members

(1) President. Hindu, (2) Vice-President Hindu which has now become vacant due to the resignation of Hindu Vice-President on account of ill health), (3) Health Officer, Hindu; (4) Sanitary Inspector (Rural Area). Hindu; (5) Overseer, Hindu; (6) Member Hindu; (7) Member Hindu; and (8) Member, Muslim.

Against seven Hindus there is only one Muslim member.

Establishment

(.) Secretary, Hindu; (2) Overseer, Hindu; (3) Sanitary Inspector (Delhi-Shahdara), Hindu; (4) Vaccinator, Hindu; (5) Typist, Hindu; (6) House Tax Clerk Hindu; (7) Water Works Supdt., Hindu; (8) Water Works Mistry, Hindu; (9) Ter. Tax Inspector, Hindu; and (10) Accountant, Muslim.

Against nine Hindus there is only one Muslim.

Yours etc.,,
Delhi. Muslims of Shahdara.